



**Testimony of
The Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association (ConnOTA)
By
Morgan Villano, Board Member for Government Affairs
Concerning
Raised Bill No. 356 *AN ACT CONCERNING ATHLETIC TRAINERS*
Before the
Public Health Committee
March 7, 2016**

On behalf of the Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association, we have had the opportunity to review the most recent version of the proposed scope of practice change for the Athletic Trainers, contained in Raised S.B. No. 356, An Act Concerning Athletic Trainers.

We appreciate the effort taken by the Athletic Trainers in coming to a compromise related to this scope of practice and while we recognize the efforts, we feel there are additional changes required.

The factors leading to our recommendations are related to educational preparedness of the athletic trainer and clinical qualifications of current and future athletic trainers to perform the scope of practice as envisioned in this bill along with the broad scope of practice requested.

Of particular concern is the addition of a **clinical** evaluation and assessment, the revision of the definition of an athlete to a physically active individual which is very broad, and the inclusion to evaluate and treat acute and chronic injuries.

This bill essentially states that an athletic trainer is able to provide evaluation and treatment to almost *any* individual, without regard to their current or prior level of function. This would include medical treatment provided to both acute and chronic injuries that can happen anywhere, and could have happened sometime in the past.

The Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association

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I would like to thank the Committee for your time today, and for the opportunity to present concerns related to this proposed bill.

The Connecticut Occupational Therapy association is happy to work with the sponsors of this bill to address concerns. I look forward to working with you on this issue, and any others as appropriate throughout this session.

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